

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, AS

SUBJECT: NHTSA REPRESENTATIVE AT AUSTRALIAN SEMINAR ON SEAT
BELT SYSTEMS

REF: STATE 019835

1. HERBERT H. KAISER, JR., DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION FOR ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
WILL NOT, RPT, NOT ATTEND SUBJECT SEMINAR. AFTER RECEIPT
OF AGENDA AND OTHER MATERIAL INCLUDED IN FRANK YEEND'S
LETTER TO JOHN BURKE, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT KAISER WOULD
NOT BE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE BECAUSE OF DETAILED TECH-
NICAL NATURE OF SEMINAR AND ASSOCIATED DISCUSSIONS.

2. DR. P. ROBERT KNAFF, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF DRIVER AND
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, NHTSA, WILL
ATTEND IN LIEU OF MR. KAISER. DR. KNAFF WILL PRESENT A
KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND TECHNICAL PAPER AS REQUESTED.

3. BIODATA ON DR. KNAFF IS AS FOLLOWS:

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DR. KNAFF DIRECTS ALL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES WHICH INVOLVE

DRIVER PERFORMANCE, INCLUDING THOSE VEHICLE CHARACTERISTICS WHICH AFFECT DRIVER PERFORMANCE, AS WELL AS RESEARCH TO

TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST SAFETY. THUS, THESE PROGRAMS RANGE FROM DRIVER EDUCATION AND LICENSING TO FACTORS WHICH IMPAIR DRIVING PERFORMANCE, SUCH AS ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND FATIGUE. THEY ALSO INCLUDE RESEARCH TO IMPROVE VEHICLE HEADLIGHTING, TAIL LIGHTING, INSTRUMENTS AND CONTROLS. ONE OF DR. KNAFF'S KEY RESPONSIBILITIES IS DIRECTING NHTSA'S RESEARCH PROGRAM TO REVIEW THE USE OF SAFETY BELTS. BEFORE COMING TO DOT, DR. KNAFF WAS INVOLVED WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE U.S.-MANNED SPACE FLIGHT PROGRAM. DR. KNAFF'S BA IS FROM CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE IN NEW YORK; HIS MA FROM MC GILL UNIVERSITY IN MONTREAL, CANADA; AND HIS PHD IN ENGINEERING PSYCHOLOGY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND.

4. DR. KANFF'S PARTICIPATION IS CONDITIONAL UPON AUSTRALIAN OFFER TO PAY ROUND TRIP AIR FARE AND PER DIEM.

5. PHOTOGRAPH OF DR. KNAFF WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO MR. YEEND IN NEAR FUTURE THROUGH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON (NEIL WOODROFFE).

6. COPIES OF ADDRESS AND PAPER WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO YEEND THROUGH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY AS SOON AS THEY ARE APPROVED.

7. PLEASE PASS ABOVE INFORMATION TO MR. YEEND SOONEST WITH OUR APOLOGIES FOR THIS LATE BUT NECESSARY CHANGE.

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